

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 EB-07 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 VOE-00 SCA-01

INSE-00 A-01 OPR-02 IO-10 FEAE-00 OES-05 TRSE-00 /122 W

----- 127077

O 221540Z DEC 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7429

DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS VIENNA 10611

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPEC, ASEC, AU

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK ON OPEC

1. IN EARLY AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH LASTED

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WELL OVER ONE HOUR AND IN WHICH INTERIOR MINISTER

ROESCH PARTICIPATED, CHANCELLOR KREISKY FIELDDED A LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS OF AUSTRIAN AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.

2. IN BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT, KREISKY REPORTED THAT DC-9 HAD LANDED AN HOUR BEFORE IN ALGIERS. HE HAD SPOKEN WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE, WHO ASSURED HIM THAT A VERY HIGHLY QUALIFIED ALGERIAN DELEGATION LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA WOULD CONDUCT NEGOTIATION WITH TERRORISTS AT THE AIRPORT. KREISKY SAID FURTHER THAT FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF PLANE HE HAD RATHER LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL FEYIDE WHO ASSURED HIM THAT ALL OF THOSE OPEC MEMBERS AFFECTED HAD COMPLETELY AND UNRESERVEDLY APPROVED THE GOA ACTION. FEYIDE TOLD HIM FURTHER THAT OPEC HAD NEVER FELT ITSELF TO BE IN DANGER, HENCE HAD TAKEN NO ADDITIONAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.

3. IN THE FOLLOWING QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD, KREISKY POINTED OUT THAT OPEC HEADQUARTERS IS INVIOABLE UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF THE GOA-OPEC HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND IS CONSIDERED EXTRATERRITORIAL GROUND. FURTHERMORE, THE GOA HAS LETTERS BY EACH INDIVIDUAL OPEC MINISTER ASKING GOA THAT ACCOUNT BE TAKEN OF TERRORISTS' DEMANDS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL OPEC STATES FROM THE OUTSET HAD DEMANDED THAT A SOLUTION BE FOUND THAT WOULD SPARE HUMAN LIVES. HE NOTED ALSO THAT AUSTRIA HAD ADDED ITS OWN CONDITIONS; E.G., THAT ALL OPEC SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL SHOULD STAY BEHIND.

4. KREISKY THEN DESCRIBED ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE NIGHT AT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY WHERE "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT" WERE OPERATING. IN ANOTHER ROOM, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF OPEC COUNTRIES AND ALSO AMBASSADORS OF OPEC STATES WHO CAME TO VIENNA FROM OTHER NEARBY CAPITALS AFTER THE ATTACK WERE ASSEMBLED, AND IN A THIRD ROOM DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH THE IRAQI CHARGE WHO WAS JOINED TOWARD THE END BY THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR WHO HAD RETURNED FROM A UNCLASSIFIED

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VISIT IN BUDAPEST. MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM, CHANCELLOR SAID, PROVED TO BE THE QUESTION OF THE INJURED TERRORIST; GOA ACCEDED TO DEMAND THAT HE BE INCLUDED WITH GROUP AFTER MEDICAL OPINION WAS GIVEN THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL. KREISKY INSISTED THAT EACH OPEC MINISTER SEND HIS OWN STATEMENT TO THE GOA SO THAT EACH COULD SPEAK FOR HIMSELF. CHIEF FEYIDE TOLD CHANCELLOR LATER THAT LEADER OF TERRORIST GROUP

HAD TOLD HOSTAGES THAT THEY COULD WRITE WHATEVER THEY WANTED IN THESE LETTERS SINCE HE HAD NO RIGHT TO READ THEIR CORRESPONDENCE.

5. KREISKY DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON TERRORIST AIMS, SAID TERRORISTS TOLD GOA THAT IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT THEY ACHIEVE A SPECTACULAR ACT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE GREATEST WORLDWIDE PUBLICITY FOR THEIR IDEAS. HENCE THEY CHOSE THE OPEC MEETING. ASKED WHETHER THE ALGERIANS HAD TO NEGOTIATE ALL OVER AGAIN, KREISKY REPLIED THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS CONCERN FURTHER TRANSPORT OF TERRORISTS SINCE HE HAD HAD ASSURANCE THAT HOSTAGES WOULD BE RELEASED IN ALGIERS.

6. KREISKY SAID THAT LEADER OF GROUP WAS A LATIN AMERICAN; THAT THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY LOCAL VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR. MEMBERS OF GROUP SOKE ARABIC AND PRESUMABLY ARE PALESTINIANS EXCEPT FOR WOUNDED MAN WHO WAS NEITHER A LATIN AMERICAN NOR AN ARAB BUT A EUROPEAN, ALSO THAT THE WOMAN WHO KILLED THE AUSTRIAN POLICEMAN IS ALSO EUROPEAN.

7. KREISKY SAID THAT VENEZUELAN COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED AS CARLOS MARTINEZ. AT ONE POINT THE VENEZUELAN TERRORIST LEADER HIMSELF HAD SAID LAUGHINGLY TO TELL THE OTHERS THAT HE WAS THE FAMOUS CARLOS. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO RELIABLE EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS SO. KREISKY NOTED THAT LEADER OF TERRORISTS AT OPEC WAS BEARDED.

8. FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL LAW EXPERT, DR. NETTLE, POINTED OUT THAT PROTECTION OF OPEC IS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED FOR IN THE GOA/OPEC HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT, THAT PROTECTION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONVENTION OF 1963 BUT THAT THIS CONVENTION DOES NOT COVER THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ASKED WHETHER THE AUSTRIAN POLICEMAN WAS KILLED IN "COLD OR HOT BLOOD", ROESCH REPLIED THAT AS FAR AS IS KNOWN OFFICER APPROACHED ONE OF TERRORISTS IN EFFORT TO TURN AWAY HIS MACHINE PITOL AND WAS THEN SHOT IN NECK BY THE FEMALE TERRORIST.

9. ASKED HOW TERRORISTS CAME TO VIENNA, KREISKY SAID HE PRESUMED ON FORGED PASSPORTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHOSE NATIONALS DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS.

10. KREISKY SAID FURTHER THAT IRAQI CHARGE WHO HAD FUNCTIONED AS GO-BETWEEN WAS CONVINCED THAT GROUP WAS READY TO CARRY OUT ALL THEIR THREATS. KREISKY EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS

NOT READY TO RISK EVEN ONE ADDITIONAL DEATH, PARTICULARLY THE DEATH OF A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD EXTR-TERRITORIAL RIGHTS. KREISKY SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN HIS VIEW THAT OPEC PRESENTED THE LEAST SECURITY RISK OF ALL MISSIONS IN VIENNA.

11. ROESCH STATED THAT FOUR AUSTRIAN OFFICERS WERE IN THE OPEC BUILDING DURING THE ATTACK, TWO IN THE GROUND FLOOR HALLWAY AND TWO ON THE FIRST FLOOR (OPEC HAS OFFICES ON FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS) AS ARRANGED WITH SECRETARY GENERAL. ASKED WHY SECURITY OFFICERS HAD NOT ASKED FOR IDENTIFICATION CARDS, ROESCH REPLIED THAT OTHER OFFICES ARE ALSO IN THE BUILDING INCLUDING THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, TEXACO, AND THE CITY OF VIENNA COMPUTER CENTER, AS WELL AS SEVERAL PRIVATE APARTMENTS IN UPPER STORIES. WHEN ASKED LATER WHY PROTECTION OF THE SECRETARIAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SIMPLER ON A SUNDAY WHEN ALL OFFICES WERE CLOSED, ROESCH REPLIED THAT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY WAS OCCUPIED AS WAS THE COMPUTER CENTER; ALSO THAT THE PEOPLE LIVING ABOVE WERE STILL THERE.

12. ASKED WHETHER IMMUNITY HAD BEEN PROMISED TERRORISTS IN FUTURE, KREISKY SAID THAT, ON CONTRARY, IF AUSTRIA LEARNS THAT THEY ARE IN A COUNTRY WHERE EXTRADITION IS POSSIBLE, ALL MEANS WILL BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THEIR EXTRADITION TO AUSTRIA. HE SAID THAT THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE HAD INSISTED THAT THIS POINT BE NOTED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE RECORD OF THE CABINET MEETING LAST NIGHT.MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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